



## New Hampshire Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics   
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

# NH AAP NEWS

March 2021

### In This Issue

- Lead Screening During COVID
- NH Family Voices
- Learn the Signs
- NHPIP
- Opportunities
- Announcements

It is nice seeing the snow  
melting a little and  
hearing the woodpeckers  
at work

### Lead Screening in New Hampshire during COVID

An MMWR report from the CDC in February reviewed data on screening of children < 6 years old for lead poisoning during the COVID pandemic. With more indoor home time, toddlers and children may be being exposed to more lead in their house. The CDC had data for 34 state and local health departments including New Hampshire from January to May of 2020. The overall number of blood lead tests was 34% lower than during the same months of 2019. In January and February of 2020 (pre-COVID) there was little change from the same months in 2019. However, during March to May, testing decreased by 52%. In New Hampshire, 2492 fewer lead tests were performed in March to May of 2020 compared to the same months of 2019. So, when toddlers and young children are being seen for care, please check to make sure they have been screened appropriately for lead exposure.



### Transition of Care from Pediatrics to Adults

At NH Family Voices we spend a lot of time with data, and love to share good news. The 2018-2019 data from the National Survey of Children's Health<sup>1</sup> shows improvement in the number of adolescents, ages 12-17, both with and without special healthcare needs, receiving services necessary to make transitions to adult health care. (Children with special health care needs improved from 19.6% to 26.4% since the 2016-2017 survey; children without special health care needs improved from 23.6% to 31% in that same time frame.)

Health care transition has been the focus of efforts within a lot of practices, as well as within Title V Bureau of Family Centered Services programs offering health care coordination and family support. NH Family Voices has had an opportunity to support some of these efforts across the state. We are thrilled to see that data is reflecting all of the work being done by so many!

1. National Survey of Children's Health, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. <https://mchb.hrsa.gov/data/national-surveys>

### Supported Decision Making

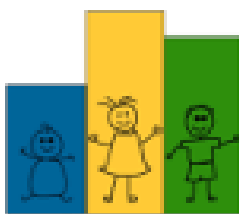
Supported Decision Making is currently being considered by the NH Legislature in House Bill 540. This would be an option for families of young people with special needs to use rather than file for guardianship when the young person turns 18. Supported Decision making allows for a written agreement between the young person and another adult to work together on important decision making skills without taking away a persons' individual rights. Want more information about supported decision making or know a family who does? They can call NH Family Voices at 271-4525.

### Learn the Signs Act Early Material

I am Bianca McAfee, a second year Speech Language Pathology graduate student and a New Hampshire-Maine Leadership in Education and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) trainee! My LEND leadership project involves the Learn the Signs Act Early (LTSAE) materials currently in the NH Family Voices library. LTSAE has developed materials to help parents, caregivers, and professionals working with young children understand developmental milestones and monitor development. At this time, there is no plan in place to distribute these materials across New Hampshire. My LEND leadership project is to create a plan to identify the best way to deliver materials to families and professionals. These materials are not only important as they increase parents/caregivers understanding of developmental milestones and what to do if a caregiver has a concern, but more importantly, they play a role in helping parents understand as their child grows and develops. If your practice would be interested in receiving these materials please contact Bianca McAfee at [bmm1009@wildcats.unh.edu](mailto:bmm1009@wildcats.unh.edu).

Thank you!

Bianca McAfee, Graduate Student Clinician  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders



### NH PIP Project ECHO on Children with ADHD, Trauma, and Other Comorbidities

“We had such a great experience and gained so much, we are excited to come back and continue the learning” – Participant, 2020 NH MCAP ECHO Series on Depression and Anxiety

This quote exemplifies the power of the Project ECHO © model to build knowledge and confidence in caring for pediatric patients experiencing mental/behavioral health concerns. This year's NH Mental Health Care Access in Pediatrics (NH MCAP) Program ECHO series will focus on caring for children with **ADHD, trauma, or both conditions in addition to other comorbidities**. NH children and families are experiencing incredible stress and no doubt your care teams are seeing the impact of toxic stress at patient visits. Similarly, your care teams are also experiencing incredible stress, hence developing team-delivered care approaches and other strategies to mitigate compassion fatigue are key. This ECHO series seeks to support pediatric primary care teams in addressing both these challenges. Subject matter experts from child psychiatry,

pediatric behavioral health/trauma, case management, family engagement, occupational therapy, and more that will be available to ECHO participants during the ECHO sessions as well as for provider to provider consults FOR FREE. CMEs are also provided. This ECHO series occurs the third Friday of the month from 12-1:30pm from March to November. NH MCAP Program is a collaborative effort of the NH Pediatric Improvement Partnership and the NH Bureau of Maternal and Child Health with funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

**For more information and to apply, please click the link below.**

[https://unh.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aumnLxhBnhYRRX](https://unh.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aumnLxhBnhYRRX)

**Opportunities Available:** This is a new section of the newsletter to highlight opportunities to get involved or for help needed. If you have something you want listed, please contact [Catrina.Watson@nhms.org](mailto:Catrina.Watson@nhms.org)

**NHAAP** is looking for chapter members who would like to be part of a chapter interest group on diversity/equity/inclusion (DEI). This would be an informal group that aims to highlight issues in this area for pediatricians. Please respond to

[catrina.watson@nhms.org](mailto:catrina.watson@nhms.org).

**Doctors Without Borders** is an international organization of physicians who work in international health and disaster situations. They are recruiting pediatricians for work now and in the future in over 70 countries. For more information go to:

<http://bit.ly/MSFPhysicians> or at [Melissa.Bieri@newyork.msf.org](mailto:Melissa.Bieri@newyork.msf.org).

**P4 Challenge:** Innovations in Pediatric Primary Care to Improve Child Health

Do you have a great idea on how to use technology to improve access to well child care and immunizations in primary care but have no money to develop this? HRSA, The Health Resource and Services Administration challenge will fund projects in this area. It should use technology that would work in a primary care setting and a primary care provider must be one of the applicants. For more information:

<https://www.challenge.gov/challenge/promoting-pediatric-primary-prevention/>

**Connecting the Docs** The NH Oral Coalition is developing a two location (greater Monadnock/IDN region 1 up to the Upper Valley and IDN region 6 in Rockingham and Strafford Counties (including Portsmouth, Dover, Rochester, Exeter and other)) to engage medical and dental providers in joint activities and trainings to strengthen the opportunity for bidirectional referrals and knowledge. **[Connecting the Docs](#)**

### **Announcements:**

**2021 CHaD Virtual Pediatric Lecture Series**, second Tuesday of Month 8-9 AM, interactive webinar. Topics are: Feb 9 – Eating Disorders, March 9 – Female Athletic Triad, Apr 13 – Pediatric Cardiology, Changes in 30 Years, and May 11 – Common Pediatric Hematologic Diagnoses, Evaluation and Management. You need to register at: Catrina can you figure out how to add a link to the register button of the attached e-mail.

---

### **NH AAP meetings**

2021 Meetings will be April 14, June 9, September 8 and December 8. Board Meetings will be held virtually until further notice.

Newsletter Editor  
Mary O'Connor, MD

Contact Us/Submit Content  
NH Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
7 N. State Street

Concord, NH 03301  
603-224-1909  
[catrina.watson@nhms.org](mailto:catrina.watson@nhms.org)

Check out our new website [\*\*www.nhaap.org\*\*](http://www.nhaap.org)

---

NH Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Incorporated in New Hampshire

